

LSC-funded legal aid programs make a crucial difference to millions of Americans by assisting with the most basic civil legal needs, such as addressing matters involving safety, subsistence, and family stability. These low-income Americans are women seeking protection from abuse, mothers trying to obtain child support, families facing unlawful evictions or foreclosures that could leave them homeless, veterans seeking benefits duly earned, seniors defending against consumer scams, and individuals who have lost their jobs and need help in applying for unemployment compensation and other benefits.

It is LSC-funded attorneys who help parents obtain and keep custody of their children, assist parents in enforcing child support payments and help women who are victims of domestic violence. In fact, three out of four legal aid clients are women, and legal aid programs identify domestic violence as one of their top priorities.

Given the vital role played by LSC-funded attorneys, we need to do better than turn away more than 50 percent of eligible clients who seek assistance because of lack of LSC program resources. With the growing number of Americans eligible for services and increased demand for legal services, the need for legal aid attorneys has never been greater. On this anniversary, I salute the Legal Services Corporation and LSC-funded attorneys for the vital work they do every day on behalf of Americans who need qualified counsel. Every day that a legal aid attorney protects the safety, security and health of our most vulnerable citizens, they bring this nation closer to living up to its commitment to equal justice for all.

CELEBRATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VILLAGE OF THOMASBORO

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2014

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor The Village of Thomasboro upon the 150th anniversary of the village. The village celebrated this special anniversary on the weekend of June 13th and 14th, 2014, with live music, games, a Raminator demonstration, and a 5k run.

The Village of Thomasboro was founded in 1864 and named after John Thomas, who owned a considerable amount of land in the area. The Village boasts a number of entertainment opportunities including a tradition of street dances, a mobile comedy club, and the Thomasboro Fire Museum.

The village is now home to 1,200 residents, and remembers its past fondly. This past includes Olympian Mark Arie, a former resident and trapshooter who won two gold medals in the 1920 Olympics, and a visit from President Gerald Ford during the country's bicentennial celebration in 1976.

I extend my congratulations to the Village of Thomasboro upon this special occasion. It is my prayer that the Lord blesses them with many more years of extending hospitality.

HONORING MARIJAN OREŠNIK

HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2014

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak as Co-Chair of the Congressional Croatian Caucus, and I know I speak for the entire Caucus in recognition of the outstanding service of Dr. Marijan Orešnik, Consul for the Consulate of the Republic of Croatia.

Marijan is truly devoted to bridging the gap between cultures and illuminating the commonalities that all of us share as human beings.

He was born and raised in Zagreb, Croatia, where he quickly discovered that he had an interest in foreign cultures and a calling to acquire fluency in other ways of life. After receiving an undergraduate degree in American and Spanish literature at the University of Zagreb, he was compelled to continue his education in the United States. In 1979 he received a Master's degree in American Literature from the University of Washington.

Following completion of graduate studies, he returned to Croatia to work in the field of linguistics and to teach English. He enjoyed enriching Croatian culture by exposing his people to foreign cultures, and he was able to do this in an even greater capacity when he became the head of the International Unit of Croatian Television from 1990 to 1995. It was during this period that Croatia established itself as an independent nation, and the new Croatian Government took notice of Marijan's skill and commitment during this pivotal time. The government reached out to him and asked him to serve his country in a new post at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He accepted the call of duty and became a Political Counselor, specializing in culture and media, first in Indonesia, then in Canada. Finally in 2010, he was promoted to Minister Counselor and posted in Los Angeles.

The Croatian Community in Los Angeles is the third largest in the United States, and Marijan was warmly welcomed there. He has been a tremendous asset these past four years. I have come to know him as a modest and thoughtful man whose every action on duty demonstrates his goal of improving the lives of the Croatian people both here and abroad. It is very inspiring to know someone like him who believes that our differences should not divide us, and that cultural exchange strengthens us all.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all Members of the House join me in congratulating the service of Dr. Marijan Orešnik.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF TED MAINES

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month, to recognize Ted Maines. Born and raised in the New York City metropolitan area, Ted started doing volunteer work as a teenager in high school.

He was taught at an early age that "giving back" was not only expected of everyone who was capable, but that over time it would also serve to define his character and give his life meaning.

Upon moving to Central Florida in 1986, Ted realized that he was at the point in his life where he had the means and the time to make a difference in his community. Ted became a board member at AIDS Resource Alliance/Serenity House, an organization providing assistance to HIV positive adults, children, and their families. After the LGBT March on Washington in 1993, Ted joined, and quickly became an officer of both the Orange County Rainbow Democratic Club, and Central Floridians United Against Discrimination, helping to advance the issue of LGBT Equality. Ted and his partner, Jeff Miller, also began fundraising for local, statewide, and national Democratic candidates, which they continue to do today.

Ted has served on several City Boards, most notably serving five years on the City of Orlando's Historic Preservation Board, including two years as Chair. For the past four years he has also served on the Orange County Library System's Board of Trustees, of which he is currently President.

In addition to political fund raising, Ted served as Chair of Hope & Help's Headdress Ball in 2005 and 2006, and is an honorary Co-Chair again this year. Ted and his now husband, Jeff, have been Chairs of the Holocaust Memorial Center of Central Florida's Dinner of Tribute in 2012 and 2013, and Chaired the Orlando Ballet's 40th Anniversary Gala, 'Exposure!', in 2014. The Gala was so successful that it has become an annual event that Ted and Jeff will co-chair again in 2015. Ted and Jeff are also Co-Chairs of the Grand Opening Gala for the Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts.

Ted is proud to currently serve on Nemours Children's Hospital Council, on the Board of the Orlando Ballet, as President of the Orange County Library System's Board of Trustees, and his Homeowners Association Board of Trustees. Ted and Jeff are supporters of the Holocaust Center's UpStander Anti-Bullying program, which was founded by Jeff. They are members of The Orlando Museum of Art's Acquisition Trust, University of Central Florida's Flying Horse Press, Hope & Help's Circle of Life, Equality Florida, and Human Rights Campaign's Federal Club.

Marrying Jeff, his partner of 31 years, last August in New York City fulfilled a lifelong dream. Ted and Jeff are both strongly committed to realizing the goal of achieving Marriage Equality in all 50 states, including their home state, Florida.

Ted and Jeff have been extremely proud and grateful to have had their contributions and achievements acknowledged in their local community. They were named to Orlando Magazine's "50 Most Powerful" list for the past five years, and in 2012 they were named Orlando's "Most Powerful Couple", quite an achievement for a same-sex couple and truly a sign of progress for the LGBT community.

I am happy to honor Ted Maines, during LGBT Pride Month, for his work on behalf of HIV/AIDS patients, the LGBT community, and the arts in Central Florida.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2014

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, to many people, human trafficking seems like an issue a world away. But, as we're hearing tonight, the tragic reality is that it affects children and communities in neighborhoods across our nation.

This evening, in bipartisan fashion, lawmakers are standing together to address the continuing need to support anti-trafficking programs and upgrade our nation's response to this crime—both locally and nationally. I have proudly cosponsored most of the bills we have debated tonight.

While these bills are important, legislation alone isn't the only solution to stopping trafficking or abuse in our country or in the Bucks and Montgomery county towns across my District. It's the continued interaction and sharing of ideas between all stakeholders that will ultimately help us address this problem at all stages—from prevention, to counseling to prosecution.

To that end, I am proud to represent a district that is leading the way in proactive and innovative efforts to end trafficking while supporting the individuals it affects. Groups like Network of Victim Assistance, Bucks Coalition Against Trafficking and Worthwhile Wear each contribute to the fabric of victim assistance in our region, while government and law enforcement organizations work side-by-side to adapt to the challenges presented by this crime.

Supporting these groups and legislation like that being considered tonight are vital steps in the fight against trafficking. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in voting for these measures and protecting those most in need in our communities.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF CARLOS CARBONELL

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month, to recognize Carlos Carbonell.

Carlos has more than 15 years of media and technology experience, and a reputation for creativity, versatility and innovation across numerous industries. In 2008, Carlos founded Echo Interaction Group, one of the nation's leading mobile application development companies. Under his leadership, Orlando-based Echo has built a portfolio that includes more than 60 apps for Apple and Android devices.

An active member of the community, Carlos is not only an advocate for the LGBT community, but also a leader in the technology, business and Latino community. He is often seen as bridging the gap between these four, sometimes distinct, groups. Carlos was on the Board of Governors of the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) and a founding member of the HRC Central Florida Steering Committee. He currently serves as the Orlando Tech As-

sociation's first President. In addition, Carlos serves as Editor-in-Chief for Vision Magazine and sits on the City of Orlando's Hispanic Advisory Committee.

Carlos has received numerous awards and recognitions. This year, he received the Governor's Business Ambassador Award. In 2013, Carlos was named one of Orlando's Power Brokers by the Orlando Sentinel and in 2012 he was selected as one of Orlando Business Journal's 40 Under 40. HRC awarded Carlos an Individual Achievement Award for his work on the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell.

Carlos graduated from the University of Florida with a bachelor's degree in advertising and an outside concentration in civil engineering.

I am happy to honor Carlos Carbonell, during LGBT Pride Month, for his contributions to the LGBT, business, and Latino communities in Central Florida.

TRAVEL PROMOTION, ENHANCEMENT, AND MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4450, the "Travel Promotion, Enhancement, and Modernization Act of 2014."

I am pleased that the Energy and Commerce Committee made important enhancements to H.R. 4450 during its recent markup, significantly improving the bill before us today.

Specifically, H.R. 4450 now includes a provision to enhance accountability of the program by requiring Brand USA to establish performance metrics to assess the effectiveness of its marketing efforts; whether increases in visitors are due to Brand USA's efforts or outside factors; and any cost or benefit to the U.S. economy.

It also includes a provision requiring the Secretary of Commerce to establish formal procedures for revising the policy governing in-kind contributions or resolving disputes about the value of in-kind contributions with Brand USA.

These provisions are responsive to findings in a July 2013 report by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) report entitled "Brand USA Needs Plans for Measuring Performance and Updated Policy on Private Sector Contributions."

Given my strong desire to stimulate new tourism to the United States, I requested GAO to examine the effectiveness of Brand USA so that Congress could be informed as to whether the corporation was positioned to achieve its mission.

In that report, GAO concluded that Brand USA has taken some steps to measure its performance but has not yet developed a plan to monitor and evaluate whether its efforts are increasing travel to, and travelers' spending in, the U.S.

GAO also found that there were possible problems with current valuation methodologies for in-kind contributions and cited disputes between the Commerce Department and Brand USA about whether certain types of in-kind contributions are allowed under the law.

For the Federal government's part, the resources that are provided to Brand USA are derived from a fee assessed to foreign travelers that Customs and Border Protection collects. Given the well-documented resource challenges within CBP, I have no doubt that CBP would welcome the opportunity to retain more of these funds for its own traveler facilitation programs and operations but, as a policy matter, Congress has said it must go to this corporation to advertise and promote travel to the U.S.

For its part, it falls to Brand USA to show us that we made the right call by delivering data showing how the ad campaigns and media efforts undertaken by this corporation have impacted travel and the overall economy.

The bill being considered today will help ensure Brand USA addresses deficiencies found by the GAO and utilizes its funding in the most effective and efficient manner possible, as we extend authorization for the program through 2020.

Because of these improvements to the bill, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4450, the Travel Promotion, Enhancement, and Modernization Act of 2014.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF CHARLES "CHASE" THOMAS SMITH

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month, to recognize the life of Charles "Chase" Smith, who passed away on August 28, 2013, at the age of 41. He left this world, surrounded by his close family and friends.

Born on April 3, 1972 in Blountstown, Florida, Chase is a graduate of Hardee High School and Barry University. Chase was successful in many areas of his professional life. After hand-writing letters to every voter in Wauchula, he was the youngest person ever elected to the City Council at the age of 20. He served three four-year terms on the City Council, before moving to Orlando and working as Commissioner Patty Sheehan's Aide for seven years. Chase was beloved by the neighborhood and business people he worked with. He was Commissioner Sheehan's confidant and friend.

Chase moved from City to County Government where he was an Aide to Orange County Mayor Theresa Jacobs from 2011 to the time of his death in August 2013. Mayor Jacobs appointed him to be Orange County's first Ombudsman. Chase's personal integrity and work ethic enabled him to excel in the position.

We will never forget Chase's beautiful smile, compassion for those less fortunate, and ability to rock an Easter Bunny costume. He was a proud gay man and fashionista, frequently giving his boss, Patty Sheehan, fashion advice. He loved wearing bow ties and decorating for Halloween and Christmas.

Chase was a lifelong Democrat, but worked well with people from all party affiliations. He was the very definition of a public servant. Chase loved public service with his whole